

## THE STAR

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### TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Yusuf Arbealy, who, with his wife and  
six sons, came to this country from Da-  
mascus, Syria, nearly three years ago, is  
delighted with the change. He ex-  
plains that more of his countrymen do  
not follow his example because the  
Turkish government not only discour-  
ages emigration but takes measures to  
prevent it.

A witty New York society woman was  
standing before Zola's greatly admired  
picture of Lot and his daughters, which  
was on exhibition in an art store on  
Fifth avenue. "Oh!" remarked a friend,  
dolorously, "what do you suppose Lot  
thought when he beheld his poor wife  
turned to a pillar of salt?" "I suppose,"  
replied our wit, with admirable gravity,  
"he thought how he could get him-  
self—a fresh one."

The United States geological corps  
has in charge the first census of the  
Indians ever taken in this country. The  
work was to be made an important part  
of the present census and was placed in  
charge of Major Powell of the survey.  
The work was to be accomplished under  
the direction of special agents, four in  
number, sent out by Major Powell.  
The work has been in progress nearly a  
year, and it will take fully a year longer  
to complete it.

Horsewhipping is an expensive luxury  
in England. A noble marquis has been  
fined \$2,500 and costs and bound over  
to keep the peace for a year for lashing  
another noble lord, who had been so  
inconsiderate and imprudent as to  
abduct the noble marquis' wife. Two  
of the noble marquis' friends who took  
undue interest in the sport were also  
fined. In fact everybody concerned  
seems to have been heavily mulcted  
except the noble lord who got the noble  
ady into trouble.

An interesting contribution to the lit-  
erature of suicide is made in a pam-  
phlet recently published in Berlin. The  
suicidal mania is spreading so rapidly  
in the German capital that the authori-  
ties are earnestly considering in what  
manner it can best be checked. The  
pamphlet above referred to states that  
in the years from 1875 to 1878, 280 cases  
of suicide were registered per million  
inhabitants in Berlin, 285 in Vienna,  
450 in Leipzig and only eighty-five in  
London. Paris, with 400 suicides, near-  
ly approached the startling figure of  
Leipzig.

The department of agriculture at  
Washington from July 1, 1877, to June  
30, 1881, inclusive, has published 7,473  
pages of books and pamphlets, more or  
less valuable. The number of these  
printed was 2,368,525, and the total  
pages printed were 858,381,675. Taking  
the population of the United States at  
50,000,000, here are nearly eighteen  
pages of printed information for every  
man, woman and child in the land. Nor  
is this all. The department during the  
same period has distributed 4,432,878  
packages of seeds and 678,832 valuable  
plants.

A patriotic correspondent quotes the  
old statement that Queen Victoria is the  
only sovereign on whose dominions the  
sun never sets, and patriotically pro-  
ceeds to show that the sun never sets  
on the possessions of the United States;  
that when the sun is about expiring on  
the confines of Behring's sea it is already  
beaming brightly in Maine and in the  
eastern part of that State is an hour  
high. From the farthest eastern part  
of our country, at Eastport, Maine,  
to the farthest end of the Aleutian Isles,  
the distance is 197 degrees of longitude,

or seventeen more than half way around  
the globe.

Archer, the jockey who won the  
Derby for Mr. Lorillard, is quite a  
character in England. In 1876 he is  
said to have earned \$60,000 profession-  
ally. In 1875 he won 172 races; in  
1876 he won 207; in 1877, 218; in  
1878, 229; in 1879, 197; and in 1880,  
120. He is petted like a prima donna,  
and is the companion of sporting lords.  
He travels from one race meeting to  
another in a first-class carriage, has  
only to ride his appointed horse, and  
keeps a valet to assist him in changing  
his dress. His yearly income is greater  
than that of a prime minister.

The arrivals of emigrants at Castle  
Garden, New York, during the first half  
of this year have been unprecedentedly  
large. The total arrivals since January  
1 have been 243,925—an increase of 60,-  
000 over the same period last year. The  
record of the nationalities represented  
by the arrivals is as follows: Germany,  
24,142; Ireland, 7,771; Sweden, 7,209;  
England, 5,660; Austria, 3,300; Nor-  
way, 2,995; Scotland, 2,067; Switzer-  
land, 1,405; Italy, 1,239; Denmark,  
1,159; Holland, 1,135; Poland, 621;  
Russia, 604; Bohemia, 515; France,  
380; Hungary, 305; Belgium, 136;  
Wales, 84; Spain, 27; other countries,  
63.

Following are some interesting and  
instructive figures given in connection  
with the workings of the United States  
postoffice department: One letter out  
of every 300 sent is unclaimed in the  
office to which it goes. One letter in  
283 sent turns up at the dead letter of-  
fice. One letter out of every 3,100 sent  
is held for postage at the office of mail-  
ing—and this amounts to near 300,000  
in a year. More than 200,000 letters  
every year are insufficiently addressed.  
Ten thousand letters this year bear no  
superscription whatever, and these let-  
ters often contain remittances of great  
value. More than 200,000 foreign let-  
ters fail to reach the persons to whom  
they are addressed.

An astronomer says that the earth  
meets 50,000,000 of comets, more or  
less, every year. Almost all of them  
are ignited by the rapid passage through  
our atmosphere, and become shooting  
stars. Now and then one does not ig-  
nite, and strikes the earth. These are  
called meteoric stones, of which a very  
large portion is in the Smithsonian in-  
stitution. The universe is full of them.  
He adds that it is held by some astron-  
omers that the result which would follow,  
should a comet strike the earth—a large  
comet—would be to resolve both bodies  
at once, by the concussion, into clouds  
of incandescent mist, or gaseous matter,  
a result which would be so sudden and  
instantaneous that the inhabitants of the  
earth would never know what had hap-  
pened.

Great Britain has three agricultural  
schools, an English, Irish and Scotch,  
each self-supporting and costing not  
more than \$10,000 each a year; each is  
intended to train three classes of agri-  
cultural laborers—gardeners, small ten-  
ants and large farmers. Prussia spends  
two or three million dollars annually  
upon the state forests and farms. The  
farms of the state are rented to practical  
farmers who are bound by their leases  
to take pupils in agriculture, and to  
keep blooded stock for improving the  
breeds of the surrounding community,  
and to introduce such machinery on  
trial as is recommended by the agricul-  
tural minister of the crown. No seeds  
are distributed free, except in time of  
scarcity, but railroads have to carry free  
articles for exhibition at agricultural  
fairs. The highways are lined with  
fruit or other trees, and the government  
supervision of forests is strict.

The bridge disaster on the Moreles  
railroad in Mexico was a frightful calam-  
ity. The bridge gave way while a train  
was passing over it, and 214 officers and  
soldiers on the train were killed out-  
right or roasted to death by the flames  
which burst over the wreck when 100  
barrels of brandy, forming part of the  
freight, caught fire. Only sixty persons  
escaped alive, and of these forty were  
more or less seriously injured, many  
fatally. Efforts to rescue the imprisoned  
victims were useless, and the dead and  
living were consumed by the remorseless  
flames before the eyes of the survivors.  
The bridge was not only weakened by  
recent floods, but seems to have been  
imperfectly constructed by incompetent  
Mexican engineers. No such casualty  
has ever before occurred in Mexico, and  
the effect upon the ignorant and super-  
stitious population undoubtedly will be to

unreasonably prejudice them against  
railroad enterprises.

### A Night of Horror.

Ednard Toth, the popular but very  
poor Hungarian lyric poet and drama-  
tist, who died some weeks ago, has left  
an autobiographical account of the event  
which hastened his end. There seems  
to be no doubt that the gifted young  
man had the germs of consumption al-  
ready at work in him, but probably no  
consumptive patient ever took less pre-  
caution against the advances of the dis-  
easer, while the last stage was pre-  
maturely hurried on by the circum-  
stances which he has described. In a  
light coat, with no companion but a  
walking-stick, and with only five gulden  
in his pocket, he set off for a walk  
of ten miles across a moon tai  
path to join a troop of players in a  
town which is simply indicated as "K."  
He was overtaken by a fearful and  
blinding snow-storm. About twelve at  
night he saw a light in a house, made  
his way to it and found that it was a  
miserable little inn of forbidding aspect.  
He determined to seek night quarters  
there, having no other choice, as he  
thought, between that and death. After  
he had been admitted by the evidently  
Jewish landlord he saw two peasants,  
of criminal-looking aspect, drinking  
and playing at cards. Toth ordered  
an omelette and half a bottle  
of red wine. He was so dis-  
concerted by the evident character  
of his host and his fellow guests, that  
he thought it better to trust himself  
to the snow-storm for the remainder of  
the night than to such companions. He  
put down his five-gulden piece, at  
which the two peasants glanced, and  
received four gulden and 70 kreuzers  
in change. Warmed by the wine he  
started off with reinvigorated force. He  
had proceeded some distance, when,  
to his "great good fortune," as he says,  
he slipped and rolled down into a deep  
ditch. As he could not find his way  
back to the road he made use of the  
ditch as a track. The snow had ceased  
and had not fallen so heavily on the  
downward route as on the ascent. In a  
few moments he heard the voices of  
the two peasants whom he had left in  
the inn. "He must have come this  
way," said one, "he cannot escape us."  
"Bah!" replied the other, "it is not  
worth freezing all night to get four gul-  
den and seventy kreuzers. I shall go  
back." Toth says that he kept himself  
quiet and motionless on the frozen  
ground for two or three hours before he  
dared to again move. "That night,"  
he writes, "killed me, for since its hor-  
rors I have scarcely passed an hour  
without incessant coughing."—Toronto  
Globe.

### CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

Atheletic games were first exhibited  
in the year of Rome 567.

The invention of keys is ascribed to  
Theodore of Samos, 730 B. C.

Cesar is said to have killed 1,192,000  
Gauls in the 150 battles he fought.

Barbers were not introduced into  
Rome from Sicily until the 454th year  
of the city.

The origin of the theatrical represen-  
tations of the ancients has been traced  
back to a Grecian stroller, singing, in a  
cart, to the honor of Bacchus.

The excavations of the ancient city of  
Herculaneum were begun in 1711.

The phibley or short kilt worn in the  
Highlands was introduced by Rawlings-  
ton, an ironmaster, in 1728.

The corn crop of the United States  
averages nearly 1,500,000,000 bushels,  
or 47,000,000 tons, enough to load  
5,000,000 rail cars, making 30,000 trains  
each half a mile long, requiring at least  
60,000 locomotives to draw them.

A writer in the *British Medical Jour-  
nal* asserts that in the last thirty years  
there has been a gradual diminution in  
the size of people's heads. The change  
was first observed by the hat manufac-  
turers, who have reduced the average  
hat two sizes during that time. Cause  
not stated.

During the famines in India, of  
which there have been about one every  
five years for the past century, a quarter  
of pound of rice per day has been found  
sufficient to keep grown persons in fair  
condition when not engaged in active  
labor. Laborers required a pound and  
a half.

A report presented to the Buffalo  
general assembly showed that in eleven  
States, old and new, Eastern and Wes-  
tern, there are 748 vacant churches, but  
only 301 ministers without charge,  
proving that there is not an over sup-  
ply of ministers.

**A Remedy of Many Uses.**  
Hostetter's Stomach Bitters while it is not  
a cathartic, achieves a host of good effects,  
and is useful in a variety of cases. By in-  
vigorating the organs of digestion it over-  
comes dyspepsia and its many and complex  
symptoms, imparts vitality to the physique,  
promotes appetite and sleep and overcomes  
the dependency which is a mental, sym-  
pathetic accompaniment of dyspepsia. It is an  
admirable remedy for disorder of the liver,  
rousting that organ when dormant, and pro-  
moting the secretion and flow of healthy bile  
into the proper channel. It relaxes without  
weakening or convulsing the bowels, and  
checks their irregularity. It arrests a growing  
tendency to rheumatism, depurating the blood  
and increasing the activity of the kidneys, and  
it is the best remedy in existence for chills and  
fever, and bilious remittent, as well as a tried  
preventive of those maladies.

"The captain and his daughter" run  
a ferry boat across the Hudson River,  
she at the wheel and he as a collector  
of fares.

**Indigestion.**  
The main cause of nervousness is indigestion,  
and that is caused by weakness of the stomach.  
No one can have sound nerves and good health  
without using Hop Bitters to strengthen the  
stomach, purify the blood, and keep the liver  
and kidneys active, to carry off the poisonous  
and waste matter of the system. See other  
column.

Sir Edward Watkins is president of  
nine English railway companies, and  
his aggregate salary amounts to \$100,-  
000 a year.

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